

PERILOUS CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE WORKINGMEN OF EVANSVILLE, INDIANA,

ON THE

*Pending sectional disturbances between the North and the South.*

JANUARY 21, 1861.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

A called meeting of the mechanics and workingmen of Evansville was held January 12 at the Crescent City Hall. The meeting was called to order by appointing Mr. John A. Haney to the chair, John W. Thompson secretary, and W. G. Murray assistant secretary.

The chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Mr. W. H. Klusman made a motion that the chairman appoint a committee on resolutions.

On motion, it was decided that said committee shall consist of thirteen workingmen.

The chairman appointed the following :

Me-srs. W. H. Chandler, chairman; John J. Hays, George T. Cochran, F. D. Allen, W. H. Klusman, John S. McCracken, James Scantlin, jr., John A. Reitz, E. H. DeGarmo, C. Kratz, A. Simpson, Archibald Thompson, and A. D. Sullivan.

After the retirement of the committee the meeting was addressed by John W. Thompson in a thorough Union speech.

The committee, having returned, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which, on request of the committee, were read by Mr. Chandler :

Whereas we, the working men of the city of Evansville, following the example set us by brethren of like condition in life, north and south, have met to take counsel together, in view of the great calamity that is about to overtake our beloved country, and in the calm judgment of unprejudiced minds, void of all party feeling, to express our horror at the prospect of a fratricidal war now being urged upon us by party chiefs who too long have held sway in the councils of the nation; and

Whereas, as upon the workingmen must fall the first and heaviest blow in the event of a disruption of our glorious confederacy, it is our duty to, as we in truth do, declare it is not of our seeking; that we have an abiding confidence in the patriotism and stern justice of the toiling masses—the dwellers on the hills and in the valleys—those that till the soil and that fill the workshops, and upon these the country now calls in this dark and trying hour: Therefore—

*Resolved*, That we will stand by the Constitution and the Union in all our strength—hand to hand and heart to heart—while life lasts, and dying bequeath to our children the priceless boon received from our fathers—an unbroken confederacy.

*Resolved*, That in the ambitious and mad schemings of politicians have originated our present troubles, and that we now call upon the servants of the people in Congress assembled, by compromise, at once to adjust the difficulties imperiling our national existence, failing in which to return to the people the trust confided to them. We desire once more to be heard on this, to us, all-important question.

*Resolved*, That the compromise offered by Mr. Crittenden in the Senate of the United States meets with our hearty approval, and should be at once adopted. We believe it would give peace to the country.

*Resolved*, That we call upon the workingmen of the northern States to demand of their respective legislatures the repeal of the so-called “personal liberty bills,” and upon all the States, north and south, the repeal of all acts in conflict with the Constitution of the United States.

*Resolved*, That upon the workingmen depends the future prosperity of the country, and that hereafter we will support for office no party or set of men whom we may believe swayed by sectionalism, or who are not true to the Union and the Constitution.

*Resolved*, That we agree in the opinion expressed as to the necessity of a Union Convention of Workingmen, to be held at Philadelphia on the 22d of February next, to take into consideration the condition of our beloved country, and that we will be represented in the same.

*Resolved*, That we request our newspapers to publish these proceedings.

W. H. CHANDLER, *Chairman*.

John J. Hays,

F. D. Allen,

John S. McCracken,

John H. Reitz,

C. Kratz,

Archibald Thompson,

George T. Cochran,

W. H. Klusman,

James Scantlin, jr.,

E. H. DeGarmo,

A. Simpson,

A. D. Sullivan.

After the reading of the foregoing, which were received with cheers, Mr. W. H. Klusman moved that the said preamble and resolutions be adopted as read. Carried unanimously.

On motion, the chair appointed Messrs. W. H. Chandler and John W. Thompson as delegates to the Union Convention of Workingmen to be held in Philadelphia on the 22d day of February next.

Mr. Chandler, being called upon, stated that, being one of the com-

mittee on resolutions, the sentiments embodied in said preamble and resolutions were his, and having been appointed as delegate, he did not intend to make a speech, but was desirous of hearing expressed the views of the whole meeting, so as to properly present them to the convention.

Mr. Pittman stated he was for the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws, and equal rights in both State and Territory.

Captain McLane said some ultra politicians, north and south, were the cause of the present evils, and that these evils could and can be settled by compromise. The Constitution was made by compromise.

Without an early settlement these evils will result in the secession of *all* the southern States. He called upon all workingmen to put a shoulder to the wheel, and concluded a stirring speech by counselling concession, &c.

Mr. F. D. Allen and several others made a few brief but pointed remarks, advocating Union sentiments, and appealing to the workingmen to make themselves heard in the present crisis.

On motion, the meeting adjourned with three cheers for the Union.

JOHN. A. HANEY, *Chairman.*

JOHN W. THOMPSON, } *Secretaries.*

W. G. MURRAY, }

*Committee to collect funds.*

W. H. Klusman, Joseph Overall, Walter Smith, A. Sullivan, Archibald Thompson, John A. Haney, and A. Simpson were appointed as a committee to collect funds, and John A. Reitz as treasurer.

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Mr. Pittman stated he was for the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws, and equal rights in both State and Territory.

Captain McLean said some ultra politicians, north and south, were the cause of the present evils, and that these evils could and can be settled by compromise. The Constitution was made by compromise.

Without an early settlement these evils will result in the secession of all the southern States. He called upon all workmen to put a shoulder to the wheel, and concluded a stirring speech by counselling emancipation, &c.

Mr. T. D. Allen and several others made a few brief but pointed remarks, advocating Union sentiments, and appealing to the working-men to make themselves heard in the present crisis.

On motion, the meeting adjourned with three cheers for the Union.

JOHN A. HANEY, Chairman.

JOHN W. THOMPSON,

W. G. MURRAY, Secretary.

Committee to collect funds.

W. H. Ebbelman, Joseph Overall, Walter Smith, A. Sullivan, Archibald Thompson, John A. Haney, and A. Simpson were appointed as a committee to collect funds, and John A. Haney as treasurer.

W. H. Ebbelman, Secretary.